

*borealis*, identified by Atkinson from the length of a wing which he saw but the dimensions of which are not given; and *Clangula islandica* entered on the basis of a specimen reported by Cairns although another specimen obtained and identified by the same collector proved to be *C. e. americana*. There are also a few statements that have evidently been made on very questionable authority and had better have been omitted, as that regarding the breeding of the Bobolink in Louisiana and Florida.

Mr. Bruce Horsfall has contributed twenty-three of the color plates and some of them are among the best of his ornithological illustrations. Others are poor; the figure of the Yellow-throated Warbler being hopelessly out of proportion to its surroundings while the Fox and White-throated Sparrow are noticeably stiff. The other colored plate, that of the Swallow-tailed Kite, and 275 text figures mostly of the heads of the birds are by Brasher, although the fact is not mentioned anywhere in the volume. The text figures are very useful as a means of identification and are very well done with a few exceptions. In the Herring Gull the color is very misleading the back being no lighter than the lower parts.

The bibliography is introduced with a rather unfortunate statement to the effect that it includes "all known papers containing records of birds or their eggs from North Carolina." Most bibliographers would be chary of making such a claim and upon turning over a small collection of separate on the birds of the State which happens to be at hand we find one that has escaped the compiler. It is by C. J. Pennock, 'Bird Notes from Pinchurst, North Carolina' published in the 'Wilson Bulletin,' No. 74, and is an annotated list of 67 species containing some records that might well have been included in the State report. There is also an account of Swans on Currituck sound from 'Forest and Stream' for April, 18, 1916, which has been overlooked and there are doubtless other North Carolina notes in the same journal. A note on a curious hybrid duck (Mallard and Green-winged Teal) from North Carolina in 'The Auk' for 1903 would seem worthy of mention but it has apparently also been overlooked by the authors. For the general purposes of such a work however, the bibliography is satisfactory.

The names of the authors of this volume have so long been identified with North Carolina ornithology that it is a gratification to find the results of their labors preserved for future generations in such satisfactory form—a gratification that they no doubt share equally with the general public. Let us hope that this publication may prove the forerunner and model for State bird reports for some of the other southern commonwealths which have as yet issued no works of this kind.—W. S.

**Hine on Birds of the Katmai Region, Alaska.**<sup>1</sup>—In this paper, No. X of the scientific results of the Katmai Expedition of the National Geographic

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<sup>1</sup> Birds of the Katmai Region. By James S. Hine. The Ohio Journal of Science, June 1919. pp. 475-486.

Society, Mr. Hine presents an annotated list of thirty-seven species of birds secured by the party with notes on a number of others which he observed.

The notes are full and contain much of interest in regard to the habits and distribution of the species considered. Unfortunately there is no mention of the length of time that was spent in the district nor any sort of itinerary or even an indication of where Katmai might be. This is, of course, all contained in some of the other reports but as no reference to them is here given, the ornithologist who reads Mr. Hine's paper must needs do without this information. We notice several departures from the nomenclature of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' but no reason for them is advanced by the author — as for instance why he regards the Short-billed Gull as a subspecies of the European *Larus canus* or why he prefers the generic name *Glottis* for the Greater Yellow-legs and *Heteroscelis* for the Tattler. When we have an authoritative and generally used list it seems desirable to follow its nomenclature in a paper of this sort or at least to state when and why we depart from it.

The illustrations consist of three text figures from photographs and two full page half-tones of Cormorants and Puffins, Sparrows and Ptarmigan, from drawings.

Mr. Hine's paper is a welcome contribution to the ornithology of the great Alaskan region which still offers many opportunities for ornithological exploration.— W. S.

**Witherby's 'Handbook of British Birds.'**<sup>1</sup>— Part 4 of this notable work completes the Wagtails and covers the Creepers, Nuthatches Titmice, Kinglets and Shrikes. There is a colored plate of the Tits and two half-tone plates illustrating the seasonal plumages of the White and Pied Wagtails and the heads and juvenal plumages of various species, as well as numerous text figures.

The treatment follows the plan of the earlier parts and is quite up to the standard there established. Under the Creepers we notice one statement to which we would take exception, namely the disposition of the American Brown Creeper as a subspecies of *Certhia brachylactyla*. This on geographical grounds alone would seem very unlikely, and Dr. H. C. Oberholser has recently shown ('Auk,' October, 1918) that its relationship was, as we had always supposed, distinctly with *C. familiaris*. Mr. Witherby doubtless overlooked this paper as he states that this part is brought up to the date of July 31, 1919.

Part 5 completes the Shrikes and covers the Waxwing, the Flycatchers and most of the Warblers. The two latter groups are regarded as forming part of one great family to which belong also the Thrushes and most of the

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<sup>1</sup> A Practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby. Part 4 (pp. 209-272), September 26, 1919. Part 5 (pp. 273-336) November 5, 1919. Witherby & Co., 326, High Holborn, W. C. 1, London. Price 4s. net per part.